

Serial No. 10/828,604
Amendment and Response to Office Action Mailed: 4/18/2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 were pending in this application. In the present Office Action, claims 1, 2, 6-10, 12-14, and 16-19 are rejected, but claims 3-5, 11, and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 4, 5, 12, and 17 are presently amended. Claims 2, 3, 13, 15, and 18 are canceled. Claims 1, 4-12, 14, 16, 17, and 19 remain pending. In view of the amendments above and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating claims 3-5, 11, and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 2 and 3. Independent Claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 13 and 15. Claim 14 was not included as it does not seem necessary to support the element of Claim 15. Independent Claims 1 and 12 and their depending claims should now be allowable.

Independent Claim 17 has been amended to include the limitation of Claim 11. Claim 17 is now similar to Claim 1 and should be allowable for the same reasons.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 12-14, and 16-19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Basinger (US 6,666,340) and claims 1, 2, 6-10, 12-14, and 16-19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by James (US 5,860,302). Neither reference anticipates the claims as originally pending since neither teach nor suggest an unlocking feature in which "...rotation of said lever from the latched position to the unlatched position moves said latch spring from the engaged position to the disengaged position in a direction parallel to the axis of rotation.." as recited in Claim 1 and similarly in independent Claim 12 and independent Claim 17. Both references

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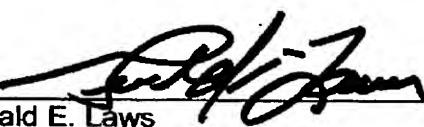
teach a motion that is perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the latch. Motion perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the lever would not function in the systems described in Applicant's disclosure. Therefore, the pending claims are allowable over each cited references.

However, in order to progress with prosecution of this application, Applicant has amended the claims as discussed above. Applicant therefore requests withdrawal of both rejections.

Conclusion

The Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner wishes to resolve any other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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